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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 IGA-02 AID-05 NSC-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SS-15 MC-02 L-03 EUR-12 EB-07 H-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /081 W
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R 170909Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0725

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (WEISNER, MAURICE), MASS, ID
SUBJECT: VISIT OF CINCPAC TO INDONESIA

1. CINCPAC ADMIRAL WEISNER, ACCOMPANIED BY POLAD LEO MOSER, ADMIRAL BENTON, HIS CHIEF ASSISTANT FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER STAFF, VISITED INDONESIA JANUARY 12-14. DURING VISIT WEISNER CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR INDONESIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS; WAS BRIEFED BY AMBASSADOR AND COUNTRY TEAM; AND VISITED SURABAYA, TOURING INDONESIAN FLEET HEADQUARTERS AND SHIPYARD. SCHEDULED STOP IN BANDUNG TO TOUR PRC-77 RADIO CO-PRODUCTION FACILITY AND C-130 IRAN REPAIR BASE WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE INCLEMENT WEATHER PREVENTED ADMIRAL'S PLANE FROM LANDING.

2. ADMIRAL MADE COURTESY CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT. WEISNER AND PARTY CALLED ON ALL FOUR SERVICE CHIEFS AND HAD ROUND
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TABLE DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (HANKAM) OFFICIALS, LED BY LT. GENERAL HASNAN HABIB. INDONESIA MILITARYOFFICIALS WELCOMED WEISNER VISIT AS SIGN OF CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST IN INDONESIA AND ENCOURAGED CONTINUED U.S. ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL. THEY QUERIED ADMIRAL ON SITUATION IN THAILAND, WHICH HE HAD JUST VISITED, EXPRESING THEIR VIEW THAT THAI SITUATION NOW MORE STABLE AND THEIR

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HOPE THAT INCREASED THAI COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA WOULD IMPROVE INSURGENCY SITUATION IN BORDER AREA.

3. MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA. MILITARY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST ASSISTANCE AND, AS USUAL, MADE PITCH FOR CONTINUATION OF AID. DURING HANKAM DISCUSSION, FOR EXAMPLE, HABIB REVIEWED FIVE-YEAR GOI MILITARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND NOTED INDONESIANS HAS FUNDING FOR ONLY ONE-THIRD OF 14 PROJECTS PLANNED. INDONESIANS MADE SPECIAL PITCH FOR BETTER FMS TERMS, AND ASKED WHETHER MAP FUNDS COULD BE LEGALLY USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF M-16 RIFLE PLANT, WHICH THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING.

4. BOTH HANKAM OFFICIALS AND AIR FORCE CHIEF MARSHAL SWGEH TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT INDONESIA'S INTEREST (SO FAR EXPRESSED ONLY INFORMALLY) IN PURCHASE OF F5 SQUADRON IN 1978-80 TIME FRAME TO REPLACE F-86'S NOW IN INVENTORY. INDONESIANS ADMITTED THERE IS LITTLE CURRENT THREAT JUSTIFYING NEW FIGHTER BIT STRESSED NEED FOR CONTINGENCY READINESS AGAINST POTENTIAL FUTURE THREAT AND NEED (IN SALEH'S WORDS) QUOTE FOR A SMALL NUCLEUS OF TECHNICAL CAPABILITY END QUOTE IN MODERN FIGHTERS SO THAT INDONESIA WOULD NOT BE "LEFT BEHIND"TECHNOLOGICALLY. SALEH SAID FRENCH HAD OFFERED MIRAGE III IN LIEU OF F5'S BUT NOTED THEY COST 50PCT MORE THAN U.S. AIRCRAFT AND QUOTE WE'RE ALREADY USED TO AMERICAN EQUIPMENT END QUOTE. THE INDONESIANS WERE VAGUE ABOUT HOW THEY COULD PAY FOR AIRPLANES AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ATTITUDE OF U.S. CONGRESS TOWARD POSSIBLE ACQUISITION, SALEH COMMENTING THAT INDONESIA'S AMBASSADOR TO U.S., RUSMIN, HAS RECENTLY TOLD HIM CONGRESS WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SALE.

5. INDONESIA ALSO SEARCHING FOR NEW JET TRAINER AND WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE T-34C, BUT IT IS (AGAIN ACCORDING TO SALEH) "PROBABLY TOO EXPENSIVE." SALEH HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN EUROPE "SHOPPING" FOR TRAINERS BUT FRENCH-GERMAN ALPHA JET AND BRITISH HAWK BOTH TOO EXPENSIVE ALSO AND ITALIAN MB-339 CHEAPER BUT INFERIOR. SALEH JOKED THAT QUOTE MAP DIDN'T ALLOW FOR THESE KINDS OF PRICES END QUOTE.

6. FINAL GENERAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS FOR U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT, WITH EACH SERVICE CHIEF WEIGHING IN FOR PARTS FOR HIS OWN EQUIPMENT. THE ARMY NEEDS PARTS FOR VEHICLES PROVIDED UNDER THE EXCESS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM, THE NAVY IS SHORT OF SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION FOR ITS DESTROYER ESCORTS AND THE AIR FORCE WANTS REPLACEMENT ENGINES FOR ITS C-47'S.

7. COMMENT. WEISNER'S TRIP, HIS FIRST TO INDONESIA, WENT WELL, RECONFIRMING STRONG INTEREST OF INDONESIAN MILITARY IN U.S.

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PRESENCE AND AID, AND PROVIDING SENIOR MILITARY OF BOTH SIDES
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER. INDONESIANS CONTINUE TO
PURSUE A VARIETY OF AID REQUESTS, BUT POLITE AND REALISTIC
RESPONSES OF ADMIRAL AND PARTY HOPEFULLY WILL SERVE THE
PURPOSE OF TEMPERING THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
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